

Testimony on Governor's Budget to Appropriations Committee

Cuts to DPH

3/6/15

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Carolyn Goodridge. I am a social worker and member of several mental health coalitions. I oppose the cuts to the Department of Public Health budget that affect the School Based Health Centers. It is baffling to me that a Governor who praised the passage of 13-178 and the Sandy Hook Commission report would cut the funding to School Based Health Centers, which have been shown to improve academic achievement and to address the mental health needs of children. Why approve task force reports and legislation if they are so quickly dismissed?

A nearly \$2million cut over the next two years will result in a reduction of direct services, reduction of staff time, and a dismantling of many new and expanded programs in the Alliance Districts that opened as a direct result of the Governor's Education Reform Initiative. School Based Health Centers have proven to be effective, and they certainly fit the Results Based Accountability standards.

Please try to restore these funds into the budget.